

circumferential rim including at least an outer wall, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween, with said closure surface extending from a lowermost portion of said inner wall;

a plurality of cut outs formed in at least said transition wall of said circumferential rim, at least one cut out being formed in each quadrant of said circumferential rim,

a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner side wall between said cut outs and said closure surface; and

at least one access opening formed in said closure surface for permitting access to contents of the container;

wherein at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs when the lid is positioned on the container.

16. (New) The lid of claim 15, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

17. (New) The lid of claim 15, wherein said cut outs are formed in both said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

18. (New) The lid of claim 15, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.

19. (New) A lid for a container comprising:

a closure surface;

a circumferential rim extending about a periphery of said closure surface, said circumferential rim including at least an outer wall, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween, with said closure surface extending from a lowermost portion of said inner wall;

a plurality of cut outs formed in at least said transition wall of said circumferential rim, at least two of said plurality of cut outs being spaced apart a circumferential distance equal to or greater than a respective quadrant of said closure surface; and

a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner wall between said cut outs and said closure surface;

wherein at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs where the lid is positioned on the container.

20. (New) The lid of claim 19, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

C 21. (New) The lid of claim 19, wherein said cut outs are formed in both said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

22. (New) The lid of claim 19, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.

23. (New) A lid for a container, comprising
a closure surface;
a circumferential rim extending about a periphery of said closure surface, said circumferential rim including at least an outer wall, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween, with said closure surface extending from a lowermost portion of said inner wall;
a plurality of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim, at least one cut out being formed in each quadrant of said circumferential rim,
a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner side wall between said cut outs and said closure surface;
and

at least one access opening formed in said closure surface for permitting access to contents of the container;

wherein at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs when the lid is positioned on the container.

24. (New) The lid of claim 23, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

25. (New) The lid of claim 23, wherein said plurality of cut outs are formed in said transition wall of said circumferential rim.

26. (New) The lid of claim 23, wherein said plurality of cut outs are formed in said outer wall of said rim.

27. (New) The lid of claim 23, wherein said cut outs are formed in both said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

28. (New) The lid of claim 23, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.

29. (New) A lid for a container comprising:

a closure surface;

a circumferential rim extending about a periphery of said closure surface, said circumferential rim including at least an outer wall, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween, with said closure surface extending from a lowermost portion of said inner wall;

a plurality of cut outs formed in at least said transition wall of said circumferential rim, at least two of said plurality of cut outs being spaced apart a circumferential distance equal to or greater than a respective quadrant of said closure surface; and

a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner wall between said cut outs and said closure surface;

wherein at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs where the lid is positioned on the container.

30. (New) The lid of claim 29, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

31. (New) The lid of claim 29, wherein said plurality of cut outs are formed in said transition wall of said circumferential rim.

32. (New) The lid of claim 29, wherein said plurality of cut outs are formed in said outer wall of said rim.

33. (New) The lid of claim 29, wherein said cut outs are formed in both said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

34. (New) The lid of claim 29, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action and in view of the discussion with Examiner Merek during the personal interview of February 26, 2003, claims 1-14 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 15-34. Accordingly, claims 15-34 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, applicant wishes to thank Examiner Merek for the courtesy extended to applicant's representative during the personal interview of February 26, 2003. During the